

SENATE BILL 1489

By Ford, O.

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33,
relative to family member involvement in mental
health services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 3, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

33-3-127. (a) A service recipient for services under chapter 6 of this title shall be
given an opportunity to approve and sign an information release that authorizes the
facility or program to release certain information concerning the recipient to certain
family members and other designated persons. This opportunity shall be offered when
the recipient is entering inpatient treatment at a facility, is in an emergency room or in a
crisis response setting. This opportunity shall be offered to the recipient at the time of
admission and periodically thereafter so long as the recipient is in residence for
treatment.

(b) The information release shall provide the recipient options for authorized
disclosures to:

- (1) Specified family members that discloses only location;
- (2) Specified family members who are to be involved with discharge
instructions and linking to other services; and
- (3) Specified family who are to be involved in and supportive in the
treatment process.

(c) The department shall encourage education of mental health care providers
regarding accepting information from family members in the course of the treatment
process.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.